

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF SNAKES FROM SINLUM KABA.

By

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Our Society is much indebted to Mr. P. M. R. Leonard for a collection of snakes from Sinlum Kaba, Upper Burma Hills, circ. 6,000 feet (Lat. 25°, Long. 97°) which includes many rarities, and one species hitherto undescribed.

*Family COLUBRIDÆ.**Rhabdophis subminiatus* (Schlegel).

A single adult.

Natrix leonardi spec. nov.

A single specimen, apparently adult.

Lepidosis.—*Rostral*. In contact with six shields, the rostro-internasals, and rostro-nasals subequal, and rather longer than the rostro-labials. *Internasals*. Two; truncate anteriorly, the suture between the fellows subequal to that between the praefrontal fellows, rather less than the internaso-praefrontals. *Praefrontals*. Two; the suture between the fellows subequal to the praefronto-frontals. *Supraocular*. Longer than the praefrontal and internasal taken together, rather shorter than the frontal, two-thirds the parietal, subequal to the anterior temporal. *Frontal*. Longer than the snout, four-fifths the parietals. *Nasals*. Two; the nostril in the anterior shield, and about the upper three-fifths of the suture. *Loreal*. One, as long as deep. *Praeocular*. One. *Postoculars*. Three (Two on the left side owing to a confluence of the two lowest.) *Temporals*. 1 + 1. *Supralabials*. 7. (The 5th and 6th are confluent making them appear 6). The 1st and 2nd touch the nasals, the 3rd and 4th the eye, 4th and 5th the temporal. *Infralabials*. 6; the 6th touches three scales behind; its length is three-fifths, and breadth twice that of the posterior sublinguals. *Sublinguals*. Two pairs; the posterior longer than the anterior, separated by 1 + 2 scales. *Costals*. Two headlengths from head 17, midbody 17, two headlengths before vent 15; keeled except in two or three last rows; emarginate. *Ventrals*. 152. *Anal*. Divided. *Subcaudals*. 46, divided. *Dentition*.—*Maxillary* (left) 18 teeth; the last three progressively enlarging, the last not twice those in the middle of the series, syncranterian, anododont.

Colour.—Uniform olivaceous-brown dorsally, the overlapped edges of some scales, especially in the fore part of the body, whitish and blackish. A narrow rufous nuchal cross bar ending on the last row of scales. Ventrally dirty whitish, very finely peppered with grey, the peppering increasing in intensity posteriorly. A black ill-defined median stripe in the forebody becoming more intense and broader as it proceeds posteriorly. Beneath the tail ferruginous, finely peppered blackish, which is heaviest at the base of the tail where it forms a median stripe. Head olivaceous-brown, merging to dirty whitish at the edge of the lip. A narrow black subocular stripe on the posterior border of the fourth supralabial. Infralabial sutures unpigmented.

Pseudoxenodon angusticeps (Blyth).

One typical adult.

Trirhinopholis nuchalis Boulenger.

A single specimen. *Costals* 15 in the whole body. *Ventrals* 140. *Anal*. Entire. *Sub-caudals* 26, divided.

Plagiopholis blakewayi Boulenger.

Three examples, ♀ 308 mm. ($12\frac{1}{4}$ inches), tail 35 mm. ($1\frac{3}{8}$ inches); ♀ 342 mm. ($13\frac{1}{2}$ inches), tail 46 mm. ($1\frac{7}{8}$ inches); ♀ 225 mm. (9 inches), tail 24 mm. ($\frac{2}{3}$ of an inch). Previous to these only one had been discovered since the description of the type in 1896. The second specimen was also from Sinlum Kaba, and is in our Society's collection.

Lepidosis.—*Costals*. In 15 rows in the whole body length. *Ventrals*. 128, 128, and 127. *Anal*. Entire. *Subcaudals*. 22, 21 and 20, divided throughout. *Loreal*. Absent in all. *Mental*. Unduly large, and in contact with the anterior sublinguals, as noted in the type.

Colouration.—The smallest is light brown dorsally, many scales being edged with black, and others with buff to form a fine variegation. A series of rather indistinct dorso-lateral black spots. A black chevron on the neck, its apex touching the interparietal suture, the arms reaching to the last costal row. Ventrally pale yellowish with small black spots, very sparsely and irregularly disposed. A black line anteriorly on the confines of the ventrals and last costal rows. Head brown above merging to white on the lips. A black spot in the suture between the prefrontal and internasals, a similar black spot in the suture between the parietals and frontal. A smaller black spot anterior to the middle of each parietal shield. Middle of rostral, and all the labial sutures black. Middle of mental, and all infralabial and other sutures black.

The largest specimen is a darker brown dorsally, otherwise like the last, except that the black spots on the head are wanting. Lips and chin as in the foregoing. The intermediate specimen is uniform slaty black, the dorso-lateral series of spots difficult to discern. No vestige of a chevron on the nape. No black spots on the head. Lips and chin as in the first specimen.

Coluber leonardi Wall.

A very fine specimen of this species—the third known, is apparently an adult. It is a ♂, measuring 685 mm. (2 feet 3 inches), tail 112 mm. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ inches).

Lepidosis.—*Rostral*. As in the type unusually broad; the rostro-internasal sutures are more than twice the length of the rostro-nasals. *Nasal*. Elongate and entire. *Loreal*. Wanting. In the figure accompanying the description (in the Bombay Nat. Hist. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, page 43) this was faultily represented, calling for a correction slip which appeared later (Vol. XXVIII, No. 2). *Costals*. 19 two headlengths behind the head, 19 in midbody, and 17 two headlengths before the vent. *Ventrals*. 210. *Anal*. Divided. *Subcaudals*. 56, divided.

Oligodon herberti Boulenger.

One fine specimen. This is the second obtained by Mr. Leonard at Sinlum Kaba, and the third known. *Length*. 400 mm. (1 foot, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches), tail 68 mm. ($2\frac{3}{4}$ inches).

Lepidosis.—*Internasals*. Wanting, as in the type, so that the rostral touches the prefrontal shields. *Nasal*. Entire. *Loreal*. Wanting. *Postocular*. One. *Costals*. 13 in the whole body length. *Ventrals*. 192; (not angulate). *Anal*. Divided. *Subcaudals*. 39, divided.

Colouration.—There is no trace of the head marks which are so characteristic of most species of the genus, the crown being heavily suffused with blackish. The light dorsal stripe is not constricted any where and passes to the tip of the tail. The tail is unspotted beneath.

Liopeltis frenatus (Günther).

One juvenile ♂ ? example from an elevation of about 3,200 feet. This species was previously only known from the Khasi Hills, Assam.

Length.—323 mm. ($12\frac{3}{4}$ inches), tail 93 mm. ($3\frac{3}{4}$ inches).

Lepidosis.—*Supralabials*, 8, the 4th and 5th touching the eye. The 2nd on the right side is cuneate and fails to reach the edge of the lip. *Costals*. In 15 rows in the whole body length. *Ventrals*. 152, *Anal*. Divided. *Subcaudals*. 100, divided.

Psammodynastes pulverulentus (Boie).

A single half grown example.

Naiia tripudians Merrem.

The head of one anocellate specimen.

Calliophis maccllelandi (Reinhardt).

One specimen of variety *gorei*, Wall. This extends the previously known habitat. I have recorded it from Burma (Manipur), once before, but not from Hills so far East as Sinlum Kaba.

Colouration.—Brown dorsally with 32 vertebral black spots on the body, and 5 narrow black rings on the tail (The 24th, 25th and last six spots on the body are replaced by rings.)